



LARGE BLUE-FLAG
Iris versicolor

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Located in marshes, wet thickets and meadows, or turfy shores throughout the Division. Also known as Poison- or Water-flag, Snake-, Liver- or Flag-lily.

A perennial herb by thick, fleshy, horizontal rootstocks. Stems are round in cross-section, leafy, erect (sometimes curving), unbranched or with 1 or 2 branches above; 30 to 90 cm high. Leaves are firm, pale green to grayish, ascending; basal leaves commonly purplish at base; 0.1 to 1 m long, 0.5 to 3 cm wide. Several large violet-blue flowers bloom on each stem from May to July; streaked with yellow, green and white. Seed capsule is cylindrical to oval, firm, 1.5 to 6 cm long; often remaining unopened over winter; seeds brown.

The plant may be food for muskrat and the seeds are eaten by wildfowl and marsh birds.

YELLOW IRIS

Iris Pseudacorus

Located in marshlands, wet meadows and brooksides from New Jersey and New York, north. Also known as Sword-, Corn-, False Sweet-, Yellow Water- flag or -skegs, Jacob's -sword, daggers and flagons.

A perennial herb with thick, pink-fleshed rootstock. Stems 0.5 to 1.0 m high, usually ending in several flowers. Leaves pale green with a whitish hue, stiff, as long or longer than stems. Flowers bright yellow, with greenish tubular neck, erect; petals somewhat spoon-shaped; blooming from June to August. Seed capsule oblong, erect 5 to 8 cm long.

